

lead by persuasion, kindness, and reason according to Your Scriptures. Equip and guide them to craft laws, resolutions, and amendments that will accomplish Your will for our Nation. By Your Spirit, help them carry out these noble responsibilities with wisdom and integrity. I also ask that You would encourage their families this day.

Our Savior, we eagerly await Your return and Your perfect justice and mercy. Until that moment, grant us patience, and help us be of good courage and strong heart.

We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ELLISON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND DR. EZEKIEL PIPHER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce Dr. Zeke Pipher, who will serve as our guest chaplain today. Zeke earned his Master of Divinity from Talbot School of Theology and his Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He is the senior pastor at Heartland Evangelical Free Church in Central City, Nebraska.

In addition to his work in the ministry, he is an avid outdoorsman and

author. His first book, "Man on the Run: Helping Hyper-Hobbiied Men Recognize the Best Things," was released last year; and he is a regular contributor to several national outdoor magazines. He and his wife, Jamie, have three children and live in central Nebraska.

And, importantly, his favorite football team is the Nebraska Cornhuskers. It is my honor to welcome Dr. Pipher.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EPA RELEASES PRODUCERS' INFORMATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the EPA's recent disregard for our Nation's food safety.

Two weeks ago, I learned the EPA released phone numbers, addresses, and even geographic coordinates that were collected from livestock producers. This information was requested by extremist groups, including Earth Justice and the Natural Resources Defense Council, through a Freedom of Information Act request. The EPA handed over the very personal information.

I have serious concerns about the potential threat these actions pose to the privacy of American farm families, as well as the safety and security of our Nation's food supply. This is yet another example of the EPA's overreach into the lives of hardworking individuals in rural America.

As chairman of the Agricultural Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development, and Credit, I'm leading a group of 40 House Members in writing a letter to the acting director of the EPA expressing our concern and asking the acting director to ensure the released information is not improperly used.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable for the EPA to do anything that could jeopardize our Nation's food security or threaten our Nation's farm operations.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the other day, it became public that Valerie Harper, the star of "Rhoda," was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. She publicly went forward with that, and it was very touching. I saw her on the morning news when she talked about it. She said that she's doing chemotherapy, she has maybe 3 months—she doesn't know how much—to live, and

she said her husband says that if we can slow this thing down, more stuff may come up.

They're working fast and furiously for all of us. They're not working for Valerie Harper because she played Rhoda, but they're doing this for all cancer patients. And the people that are doing this for all cancer patients—the doctors, the universities, and the scientists—are funded by the National Institutes of Health, all of which will get a 5½ percent cut in their budget because of the sequestration.

This is another example of why it was wrong for us to let the sequestration go into effect and why it's wrong for us not to make cuts that make sense. We need to put more and more dollars for cancer patients, for people with diabetes, people with Alzheimer's, people with AIDS, and people with illnesses that can and will be cured. If they can stay around for a little longer, they can come up with a cure and save people's lives. We don't need to defund or reduce the funding for the National Institutes of Health.

CONGRATULATING DR. MARK EDWARDS, NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. North Carolina's Ninth District is blessed with many wonderful, hardworking educators. Today, I'd like to introduce you to one of them, Dr. Mark Edwards, who was recently named National Superintendent of the Year. Since becoming superintendent of the Mooresville Graded School District in 2007, end-of-grade test scores have soared to the second highest in all of North Carolina, the graduation rate is now the third highest in the State, and Mooresville has become a nationally recognized model for integrating technology into the classroom.

These achievements are even more impressive when you consider that Mooresville has one of the smallest budgets out of the 115 school districts in North Carolina.

Dr. Edwards' work should be a reminder that strong leadership, dedicated teachers, and proactive community involvement are the most important factors in the success of our students, not Washington bureaucrats or programs.

Dr. Edwards, on behalf of the people of North Carolina's Ninth District, congratulations on your national award. May God continue to bless you and your work in Mooresville.

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THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)